

MEDICAL INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

THE MEDICAL INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT IS COMPOSED OF THE
FOLLOWING GRADES OF OFFICERS:

1. A *Medical Inspector General*, with the rank of Colonel.
2. *Medical Inspector*, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

DUTIES OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

1. The Medical Inspector General is stationed at the seat of government, and is under the direction of the Surgeon General, charged with the supervision of all that relates to the Sanitary condition of the army, whether in transports, quarters or camps, and of the hygiene, police, discipline and efficiency of the field and general hospital.

2. He will detail the Medical Inspectors for assignment to duty in military districts and departments, subject to approval by the Surgeon General and Secretary of War; will issue direct to them all orders and instructions relating to their official duties and will himself make such special inspections or tours of inspection as the Surgeon General may direct.

3. He shall make, to the Surgeon General, annual report of the concerns and operations of the Medical Inspector's Department, and from time to time, such special reports as may be necessary; with his suggestions and recommendations for improving the sanitary and hygienic condition of troops, camps, transports and hospitals for the comfort and recovery of the sick and wounded, and for the good of the public service.

4. He will institute such examinations into the professional, moral and physical qualifications of medical officers as may seem to him necessary, or he may be directed to make by the Surgeon General.

DUTIES OF THE MEDICAL INSPECTOR.

1. Medical Inspectors are charged with the duties of inspecting the sanitary and hygienic condition of troops, camps, transports, barracks, quarters and hospitals, and inquiring into and reporting upon the skill, efficiency and conduct of officers and attendants connected with the Medical Department.

2. Medical Inspectors will make special inspections and tours of inspection throughout their respective district or departments at such times as the Inspector General may direct.

3. Inspections shall be made in conformity with the following instructions.

4. The Inspecting Medical officer is required to see that all regulations for protecting the health of troops in barracks, camps and transports; for securing the sanitary condition of hospitals, and for the careful treatment and attendance on sick and wounded are duly observed.

5. He is to examine the medical, sanitary, statistical property and military records of hospitals and regiments, to see whether they have been properly kept, and that the reports and returns required by regulations have been regularly forwarded to the Surgeon General.

6. He is to ascertain from them the amount of disease and mortality among the troops, especially from pulmonary diseases and from diseases of the zymotic class, such as cholera, fever, dysentery, diarrhoea, scorbutus, etc.

7. He is to inquire into the causes of such diseases and into the steps taken for their prevention or mitigation.

8. He is to advise with the Medical officers on any measures for the mitigation or prevention of disease that may be required; and he is to recommend to him, in writing, any additional precautions that he may consider requisite.

9. He is to examine into the sanitary condition of quarters, barracks, guard-room, prison, cells, and of all buildings and rooms used and occupied by troops.

10. As to their cleanliness within and without; their ventilation, warming and lighting.

11. He is to ascertain whether the number of men accom-

modated in any barrack or guard-room is greater than is compatible with the preservation of health.

12. He is to satisfy himself that the drainage, latines, urinals, etc., are in a good sanitary condition.

13. That the rations are good and of proper quantity; that the kitchen utensils are sufficient and in good order; that the cooking is well done and sufficiently varied, and that the meals are regularly and properly served.

14. That the lavations and baths are ample for the number of men, and that the baths are sufficiently used.

15. That games and gymnastic exercises are so conducted as to contribute to the health of the troops and prevent injury.

16. That the supply of water is abundant and good; that the wells are properly covered, and that there is no soakage from cesspools, drains, etc., into them.

17. He is to examine into any sources of local malaria in the vicinity of garrison, station, barracks, camp or hospital, with a view to recommending suitable precautionary measures in regard to them.

18. He is to satisfy himself that the drainage, ventilation, cleanliness, water supply, water closets, latines, urinals and sinks of every hospital are in good condition, and that the means of warming and lighting every hospital are sufficient.

19. He should satisfy himself that the excreta of the sick are promptly removed from the wards.

20. That the sick have suitable means of cleanliness, and that the baths and lavations connected with the hospital are sufficient and in good condition.

21. That the vicinity of the hospital is in a good sanitary condition.

22. Also, as to the cleanliness and sufficiency of bedding, linen, ward furniture and utensils.

23. As to the sufficiency of the kitchen arrangements and utensils.

24. As to the quality, quantity, and cooking of the diets.

25. That the diet tables are in accordance with regulations and properly hung up in the wards.

26. That the medical attendance and nursing of the sick are efficient.

27. He should ascertain whether there has been any unusual amount of disease or mortality originating within the hospital, and if so its cause.

28. Whether erysipelas, hospital gangrene, fever, dysentery, cholera, or any other epidemic disease, has shown itself in the hospital among the sick or attendants; whether wounds heal easily and cases of disease recover rapidly; he should endeavor to trace to its cause any epidemic disease that may exist, and in consultation with the Medical officers in charge, to decide upon the means of preventing or mitigating such disease.

29. He should satisfy himself as to the state of the Surgery, the quality and supply of medicines and medical comforts, and the means of preparing and dispensing medicines.

30. As to the condition and sufficiency of the surgical equipments and instruments.

31. As to the state of hospital stores.

32. As to state of repair of the hospital.

33. As to the state of discipline of the hospital and whether due order and quiet are observed; and the orders of the Medical officers properly attended to.

34. He should see that the convalescent wards are kept clean and properly ventilated; that the attendants are faithful and competent; that diets are of good quality and in sufficient quantity.

35. He should listen to all complaints or disputes in the Medical Department, and endeavor to arrange them so that the service may not suffer.

36. He is to inspect the operating-rooms, dead-rooms, post mortem-rooms, to see that they are suitably provided with tables and other appliances and are clean, well supplied with water, well ventilated and warmed if necessary.

37. He is to inquire as to the arrangements for the burial of the dead, and whether they are sufficient to prevent injury to health and whether they are properly attended to.

38. To prevent loss of time, the Inspecting officer should give any advice in writing, on the spot that may appear requisite, or any matter included under these instructions, to the Commanding officer and Medical officer of the Regi-

ment or corps, and as soon as his inspection is completed he should report in detail to the Inspector General, stating fully all defects in the medical, sanitary and statistical departments of the service, the recommendations he has made with the result of the same, with any suggestions for improvement that may occur to him.

39. Medical Inspectors may also be ordered on special duty as principal Medical officer of large armies, or on other important professional duty.

40. In the inspection of camp and field hospitals, he will note the situation of the same relative to supplies of water and fuel.

41. He will observe the character of the soil, whether it is tenacious and cloggy, or open and of easy drainage.

42. Whether the surrounding country is mountainous and hilly and the immediate locality with a surface drainage naturally, or level and difficult to be relieved from the natural fall of water, either in snow or rain.

43. He will note, also, the prevailing winds, and also, local currents caused by neighboring hills and mountains.

44. He will also observe whether the vicinage is subject to malaria from marshes and rivers, and any other local cause of disease.

45. He will observe the police of the camps and hospitals.

46. Whether the tents are too crowded.

47. Whether they are struck and pitched on new ground as often as necessary to health.

48. Whether they are of good quality and good kind, and sufficient in number to protect the men.

49. Whether there is sufficient attention to the construction of sinks and cesspools, and to the proper filling and care of the same, and to removal of offal and trash from the limits of the camp, etc.

50. Whether the camping ground has been occupied before, and if so how recently.

51. He will also examine into the cooking arrangements for both regiments and hospitals.

52. Whether the officers are diligent in inspecting the food cooked by the men, to see that it is sufficiently well done.

53. Whether any effort is made on the part of officers to provide portable ovens for the purpose of giving fresh bread to the soldiers.

54. Whether they make adequate provision for a complete supply of fresh vegetables as circumstances will admit.

55. Whether the men are dirty and slovenly in their dress and person, and whether the officers are diligent in enforcing the discipline necessary to obviate such evils.

56. He will observe the state of clothing of the men.

57. He will ascertain the number of hospital tents to each regiment, also the state of transportation for sick and wounded men, also for hospital stores, and whether the accommodations are sufficient for the wants of the sick in the particular circumstances then and there existing.

58. He will inquire if the Regimental Medical officers are present with their corps, if not, the cause of absence.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

Important Orders Issued by Gen. Hunter.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
HILTON HEAD, PORT ROYAL, S. C.,
April 7, 1862.

-GENERAL ORDERS, No. 5.-I. The Major-General Commanding, desires to call the attention of all officers and men in this Department to the paramount necessity of observing rules for the preservation of health during the warm months-upon which we have now entered. There is less to be apprehended from battle than disease; the records of all campaigns in climates such as this showing many more victims to the neglect of sanitary precautions than to the skill, endurance or courage of the enemy. With proper care exercised, and certain simple rules of hygiene observed, the hardy soldiers of the Union, inured to toil and fortified by habits of industry, temperance and cleanliness, have nothing to fear from the climate of the Department in which it is their privilege to serve.

During our war with Mexico, the soldiers of New-England, the Northwestern and Middle States, and the adopted citizens serving in our army, suffered far less from the diseases incident to a semi-tropical climate, than did the soldiers from the States embraced in this Department. Though not so well accustomed to excessive heat, their physical energies had been more fully developed by habits of steady industry, and their constitutions presented greater natural obstacles to the incursions of malaria. Anxious that the men of his command may be preserved in the full enjoyment of health to the service of the Union, and that only those who can leave behind them the proud epitaph of having fallen on the battle-field, in defence of their country, shall fail to return to their homes and avocations on the termination of this unholy rebellion, the Major-General Commanding, in conformity with the excellent advice of Surgeon Geo. E. COOPER, U. S. A., Medical Director of the Department, hereby establishes the following rules for the sanitary government of all the troops at present serving, or hereafter to serve in Georgia, South Carolina and Florida; and he will hold all officers, having the charge of camps or posts, to a strict responsibility for their enforcement.

II. Care will be taken in the selection of camping-grounds, to avoid as much as possible the vicinity of malarious morasses or swamps; and the tents, in so far as practicable, are to be faced to the south. Each camp will be thoroughly policed twice each day, morning and evening, and all garbage or refuse matter will be collected and buried in the sinks.

III. Each tent will be screened or covered at the top and half way down the sides with an arbor of brushwood or palm leaves, and shall be floored, whenever lumber can be procured, at an elevation of about three inches from the ground. When this cannot be done, each soldier will have a bunk raised eighteen inches from the ground, on side-poles, supported by forked sticks. All Quartermasters, to the extent of their ability, will furnish barrel staves, to be placed across these side-poles, and will issue the necessary lumber on receipt of proper requisitions.

IV. Tents will be struck at least three times each week, and every article of bedding and clothing taken out and aired; the flooring and bunks to be thoroughly cleaned before the tents are reerected. On the days in which the tents are not struck, the sides will be raised, and kept raised, for the purpose of ventilation; and during the nights free ventilation will be secured by having the centre-seam in rear of the tent opened for the space of two feet, and kept open by the insertion of a forked stick. An officer of each company will inspect the tents of his men nightly, except during stormy weather, to see that this important provision is carried out.

V. Sinks of the proper size, screened with brushwood or palmetto branches, shall be sunk at suitable distances on different sides of each camp; and the bottoms of these will be covered each morning with a layer of sand or clay, about a foot thick. It will be the duty of the camp-police to see that only the sinks on the lee side of the camp are used.

VI. Fresh meat is to be issued as often as practicable, and commanding officers, while near the seacoast or any pieces of water in which fish exist, should encourage such of their men as are off duty, or not otherwise employed, to fish during the cool hours of the morning and evening,—not later than 9 o'clock in the morning, and not earlier than 6 o'clock in the evening. In a scarcity of fresh meat, those troops in the most exposed and unhealthy situations are to be the first served—for instance, the troops stationed in the batteries on the Savannah River; and to all troops so placed, a large share of vegetables, in addition to the ordinary rations, should be sent.

VII. Vegetables, fresh or preserved, must be issued frequently to all the troops, and an extra issue of coffee furnished to the men on guard during the night, just previous to their being marched to their respective stations. The Chief Commissary of the Department will see that the estimates and requisitions necessary to fulfill these requirements are forwarded to the Commissary-General without delay, and will report to these headquarters the failure of any Brigade or Regimental Commissaries to make due requisition for the supplies of the troops under their charge, in conformity with the terms of this order.

VIII. Breakfast will be ready for the men as soon as they leave their tents, which must not be till after sunrise. Except when immediately in face of the enemy, or when especially ordered by the commanding officer, reveille will not be sounded until half an hour after sunrise, by which time the sun's heat will have absorbed the miasma of the night-dews. All the men will be furnished with straw hats, and will be required to bathe or wash themselves thoroughly at least twice each week, and change their underclothing once a week, or oftener, if practicable. The hair and beard will be kept closely trimmed, and sentry-boxes of lumber or small shade arbors of brushwood will be erected at all points where sentries are permanently stationed. All soldiers on night picket or sentry duty will be provided with India-rubber ponchos.

IX. The proper cooking of provisions is a matter of great importance, more especially in this climate, but has not yet received from a majority of the officers in our volunteer service that attention which is paid to it in the regular army of the United States, and by the armies of Europe. Hereafter an officer of each company will be detailed to superintend the cooking of provisions, taking care that all food prepared for the soldiers is sufficiently cooked, and that the meats are boiled or roasted, and not fried. With a little care bestowed on this point, and the advantages to both health and comfort of good cooking explained to the men, much good may be effected.

X. All soldiers on duty in districts especially malarious, or on unavoidable fatigue duty during the hot hours of the day, should be given quinine in prophylactic doses, each dose combined with half a gill of whisky each night and morning. The certificate of Regimental Surgeons will be requisite to cover such issues.

XI. Officers of the Medical Staff will see that the provisions of this order are complied with, and will promptly report any failure or neglect to the senior officers of the commands they are serving with, and to the Medical Director of this Department.

By command of Major-Gen. D. HUNTER.
CHAS. G. HALPINE, Assist. Adj.-General.